Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 $/029~\mathrm{W}$

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P R 211010Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 98 INFO SECDEF WASHDC USIA WASHDC CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 5184

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TH, PCAT

SUBJECT: ARMS TRANSFERS TO THAILAND

REF: 77 BANGKOK 34621

- 1. WE NOTE IN FEB 17 WIRELESS FILE ARTICLE (EPF 86) BY HUGH MUIR TITLED "U.S. ARMS SALES FORECAST: DECLINE SEEN IN 'CEILING' WEAPONS". ARTICLE STATES THAT PURCHASES BY EIGHT "CEILING" COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC WILL DECLINE BY \$18 MILLION IN FY 78 AND THAT THAILAND PURCHASES WILL DROP FROM \$103.8 MILLION IN FY 77 TO \$40 MILLION IN FY 78.
- 2. MISSION IS NOT AWARE THAT SPECIFIC CEILING HAD EVER BEEN PLACED ON THAI PURCHASES FOR FY 78. AS DEPT AWARE, RTG HAS 30 MILLION US IN FY 77 FMS CREDITS AVAILABLE AND HAS INDICATED INTENTION TO SIGN FY 78 CREDIT AGREEMENT FOR ANOTHER 30 MILLION US. IN ADDITION, FMS CASH PURCHASES IN FY 78 ARE AGAIN EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$100 MILLION US. LOAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SIGNED FOR \$36 MILLION US OF THIS \$166 MILLION TOTAL, \$65 MIOOION IS FOR O&M AND LOAS FOR \$130 MILLION US ARE BEING PROCESSED. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN REFTEL, MISSION ESTIMATED THAT IN FY 79, BEYONG THE 30 MILLION US IN FMS CREDITS WHICH WE EXPECTED WOULD BE OFFERED TO AND AACCEPTED BY THE RTG, THE THAI WOULD MAKE FMS CASH PURCHASES WELL IN EXCESS OF 100 MILLION.

3. WE ASSUME \$40 MILLION LEVEL IN WIRELESS FILE ARTICLE IS NOT

SIMPLY AN APPROOXIMATION OF MAP AND FMS CREDITS FOR THAILAND IN FY 78 BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US JUST WHAT THE FIGURE REPRESENTS AND WHERE IT CAME FROM.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION SOONEST AS RTG WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DEEPLY CONCERNED IF ARTICLE WERE MISINTERPRETED TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS \$40 MILLION TARGET CEILING FOR FY 78 PURCHASES OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPEMT BY THAILAND O'DONOHUE

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